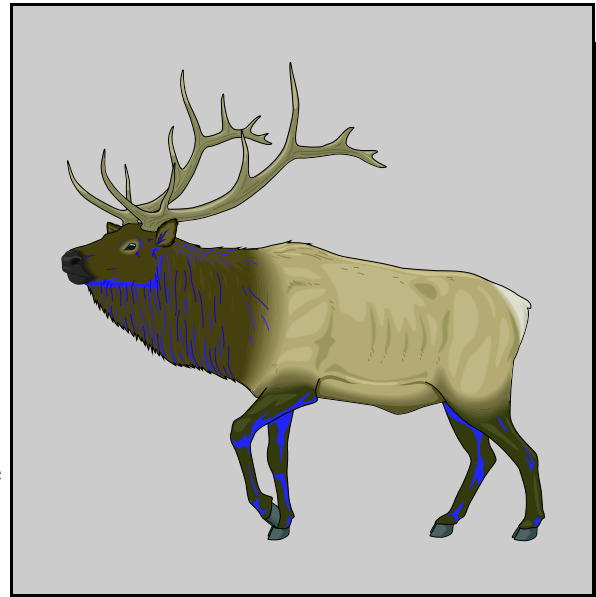


CHAPTER 5

Objectives and Actions

Management objectives, as portrayed in this plan, and in the context of a BBM approach, are the desired outcomes and benefits that we hope to maintain or achieve for each component of the RCBR ecosystem.



There are three components to the recreation management objectives described in this plan.

1. **Activities** - Benefits will be delivered by maintaining opportunities for visitors to engage in certain targeted activities. The resulting activity opportunities enable people to engage in highly valued leisure activities.
2. **Psychological Experiences** - Certain zones and areas will be managed to target the delivery of certain psychological experiences and benefit opportunities. Psychological experiences can be defined as "outcomes realized by individual participants, on-site during their engagements." Achieving the objectives in this plan will help to add value to peoples lives, and to maintain the biophysical integrity of the RCBR ecosystem.
3. **Other Benefits** - The "other benefits" as they pertain to management objectives result in "improved conditions and the prevention of worse conditions" to four different entities.

To Individuals - psychological and physiological benefits to the individual (both on-site and off-site)

To Society - benefits that are realized by society (individual households and communities)

To Economies - benefits that accrue to the local and regional economy (e.g., raising of livestock, game harvesting, etc.)

To the Environment - benefits that are realized by the natural and cultural environment.

This plan differs from past plans in that it explicitly targets certain kinds of activity and benefit opportunities. In order to determine which activity and benefit opportunity outputs to target in the management plan objectives, certain selection criteria were used. These selection criteria are listed in Appendix B.

The targeted activity opportunities, and targeted benefit outcomes are summarized in Tables 1 and 2 in Appendix B.

Management Prescriptions are the necessary physical, social, and managerial conditions that need to exist to realize the achievement of the management objectives. Management prescriptions will describe how the BLM and its various partners will deliver certain benefit opportunities, and what the BLM and its various partners will deliver. Recreation management prescriptions are described for three different settings.

Physical Setting - Describes the land and facilities. Prescribes the character of resources and facilities, including remoteness, degree of naturalness and type and amount of development.

Social Setting - Describes the people - their behavior and trappings. Prescribes the character of human use and occupancy, including the amount of contact with other people and evidence of their having been there.

Managerial Setting - Describes the administrative environment. Prescribes the character of the service delivery system, including visitor services provided by the collaborating partners, programs, the degree of management control and regulation, and the overall collaborative community partnership environment.

In order to portray the various "targeted settings", the RCBR planning area was divided into eight recreation management zones (see map on page ix). The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) process was then used to map these zones into various classes. The ROS process was specifically used in this plan to facilitate

the achievement of targeted benefits. A description of the ROS process and the classes used for the RCBR planning area are displayed and described in Appendix C. Table 3 portrays the "Targeted Physical, Social and Administrative ROS Settings for the RCBR Environment".

The relationship between the ROS settings and the targeted activities, psychological experiences, on-site and off-site benefits is portrayed in Appendix D through the "Benefit Chain of Causality."

Management Actions - This portion of Chapter 5 pertains to what BLM and the various partners will do to help achieve the the management objectives.

The management objectives, management prescriptions, and management actions will be described for the three zones -- north of the Colorado River, the Colorado River and south of the Colorado River.

A. NORTH OF THE COLORADO RIVER

1. RECREATION

Mary's and Lions Loop Area

Management Objectives:

By the year 2000, manage this zone to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in Single and Double Track Mountain Biking and Day Hiking activities, providing no less than 85% of responding visitors and affected community residents at least a "moderate" realization of these benefits (i.e., 3.5 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all, 2 = somewhat, 3 = moderate, 4 = complete/total realization):

Psychological Experiences (On-site only)

- Meeting desired challenges
- Enjoy risk-taking canyon adventure
- Improving skills
- Enjoying strenuous physical exercise
- Testing your endurance
- Quickly accessing natural resource environments
- Enjoying frequent exercise
- Escaping everyday responsibilities for awhile
- Releasing or reducing some built-up mental tensions

Individual Benefits -- psychological & physiological (most significant)

- Improved physical fitness/better health maintenance
- Reduced hypertension-high blood pressure
- Restored mind from unwanted stress
- Improved self-competence
- Improved outdoor knowledge, skills & self confidence
- Improved problem solving skills
- Enhanced sense of freedom
- Greater cultivation of outdoor-oriented lifestyle
- Increased quality of life

Household & Community Benefits (most significant)

- Heightened sense of community pride and satisfaction

Economic Benefits (most significant)

- Increased work productivity
- Well-equipped visitor-customers
- Increased value added to local-regional economy

Environmental Benefits (most significant)

- None

Management Prescriptions: Inputs to Recreation Settings and the Service Delivery System (See Appendix C for a detailed description of each prescriptive class)

Deliver the benefits by maintaining the following diversity of physical, social, and managerial settings:

Physical: The **Land**: Resources and Facilities

Rural -- Front Country -- Middle Country

Social: The **People**: Visitors, Guests & Customers

Rural -- Front Country -- Middle Country

Managerial: The **Administrative/Program environment**: BLM & Providing Partner Operations

Rural -- Front Country -- Middle Country

Management Actions for Mary's and Lion's Loop

Resources and Facilities -- Physical Setting:

- a. Provide simple basic interpretive messages incorporating the following themes:

Informing visitors about specific activity and benefit opportunities the zone is being managed to provide.

Preparing visitors for on-site canyon country environmental conditions and encourage them to adopt a responsible use ethic that respects:

- other visitor's experiences
- use regulations, including appropriate firearms use
- authorized livestock grazing

Inform visitors of traditional high use seasons and weekends.

- b. Construct simple wayside interpretive exhibits at the following locations consisting of the following components:

Kokopelli's Trailhead: Combination Interpretive/Informational Exhibit:

- Interpreting targeted Settings and Activity and Benefit Opportunities.
- Map depicting Kokopelli's Trail.
- Interpret an appropriate user ethic for single-track mountain biking.

Mack Parking Area: Map of loop trails, designated routes, and single-track mountain bike user ethics.

Mountain Bike Loop Intersections: Map of loop trails, designated routes, and mountain bike user ethics.

- c. Improve and harden the undeveloped parking area immediately south of the Mack exit, behind the I-70 weigh station on the frontage road, and on the newly acquired HT property on the bench above the river, by signing, installing rock barriers and graveling the lots.

- d. Do not develop campgrounds. Encourage visitors to stay at commercial campsites in Fruita or Highline Lake State Park.
- e. Meet the needs for growing mountain bike trails in the planning area by first expanding single-track mountain bike trail opportunities in this zone.
- f. Designate routes in this zone so that only marked routes are open to mechanized and motorized travel.
- g. On an on-going basis, to reduce hazardous situations and user conflicts, designate certain problem single-track trails as one-way directional routes.
- h. Prohibit motorized and mechanized access to the river bottom on the newly acquired Horsethief properties.
- i. Keep the remainder of this zone free of any further development to maintain its overall character quality (including aesthetics).

Human Use and Occupancy -- Social Setting:

- a. Encourage mountain bike (mechanized) use but discourage motorcycle and other motorized OHV use.
- b. Encourage day-use of the zone; invite visitors to stay at commercial campgrounds in Fruita or at Highline Lake State Park.
- c. Encourage stoves but discourage open fires by not providing campfire rings or grates.

Service Delivery System -- Administrative Setting:

- a. To resolve potential conflicts between bikers, employ indirect measures, including an on-site management presence, user education and information, before resorting to more direct controls.
- b. To resolve conflicts with livestock impacts on wet trails, reroute trails and work with livestock operators on placement of water tanks.

- c. Group events are welcomed but will be limited to no more than two large events per month.
- d. Develop a comprehensive informational list of service providers and provider services and furnish to visitors at recreation-tourism industry outlets, at the BLM office, and at Kokopelli's Trailhead.
- e. Encourage local entrepreneurs to offer guided rides and shuttle services to various ingress-egress points along Kokopelli's Trail.

How the Tourism Industry Can Help:

- a. Market Kokopelli's Trail as a regional-national attraction (but single-track loop riding opportunities primarily as a local attraction).
- b. Ensure that all zone brochures developed by local business, the Grand Valley tourism industry, COPMOBA, the Grand Junction Natural Resources Council, and the BLM are geared around the above interpretive themes, and explicitly describe the targeted settings and resulting activity and benefit opportunities.
- c. Ensure that marketing materials for the overall region are definitive enough to ensure that visitors can determine whether single-track mountain bike trail riding opportunities are what they seek.
- d. To maintain targeted benefit opportunities, publishers will be encouraged to write about Kokopelli's Trail but not focus on loops.

How Interest and Volunteer Groups Can Help:

- a. Encourage mountain bike organizations (including the COPMOBA) to adopt the trails to help organize and conduct patrols and maintain the trails.
- b. Assist in the development of brochures geared around the above interpretive themes.

Rabbit Valley Single and Two-track Riding Area

Management Objectives:

By the year 2000, manage this zone to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in single and two-track mountain biking and off-highway vehicle driving activities, providing no less than 85% of responding

visitors and affected community residents at least a "moderate" realization of these benefits (i.e., 3.5 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all, 2 = somewhat, 3 = moderate, 4 = complete/total realization):

Psychological Experiences (On-site)

- Quickly accessing natural resource environments
- Enjoying frequent exercise
- Enjoying frequent access to a range of physical challenge
- Enjoying the closeness of family and friends
- Enjoying group outdoor events
- Enjoying learning outdoor recreation & outdoor social skills
- Escaping everyday responsibilities for awhile

Individual Benefits -- psychological & physiological (most significant)

- Restored body from persistent fatigue
- Restored mind from unwanted stress
- Improved leadership abilities
- Greater environmental awareness and sensitivity
- Well-informed and more responsible visitors

Household & Community Benefits (most significant)

- Improved opportunity to keep vari-skilled groups together
- Maintained and enhanced group cohesion & family bonding
- Greater sensitivity to the recreational preferences of others

Economic Benefits (most significant)

- None

Environmental Benefits (most significant)

- Greater environmental stewardship

Management Prescriptions: Inputs to Recreation Settings and the Service Delivery System (See Appendix C for a detailed description of each prescriptive class)

Deliver the benefits by maintaining the following diversity of physical, social, and managerial settings:

Physical: The **Land**: Resources and Facilities

Front Country -- Middle Country

Social: The **People**: Visitors, Guests & Customers

Front Country -- Middle Country

Managerial: The **Administrative/Program environment**: BLM & Providing Partner Operations

Front Country -- Middle Country

Management Actions for Rabbit Valley -- Riding Area

Resources and Facilities -- Physical Setting:

- a. Provide simple basic interpretive messages incorporating the following themes:

Informing visitors about specific activity and benefit opportunities the zone is being managed to provide.

Preparing visitors for on-site canyon country environmental conditions and encourage them to adopt a responsible use ethic that respects:

- other visitor's experiences using the single-track trail system
- adjacent private landowners
- resources, including significant area cultural and paleontology attractions

- use regulations, including appropriate firearms use
Inform visitors of traditional high use seasons and weekends.
- b. Construct simple wayside interpretive exhibits at the following locations consisting of the following components:
- Main Rabbit Valley Entrance - Staging Area: Combination interpretive/informational exhibit:
- Interpreting targeted settings and activity and benefit opportunities
 - Map depicting Rabbit Valley Riding Area, designated routes, and Designated developed/undeveloped recreation sites (high priority)
 - Interpret an appropriate user ethic for undeveloped camping
- Rabbit Valley Campsite (first campsite): Map of Rabbit Valley depicting riding area, designated routes, and designated developed and undeveloped recreation sites (high priority).
- Colorado-Utah State Line: Map of Rabbit Valley depicting riding area, designated routes, and designated developed and undeveloped recreation sites (high priority).
- Salt Creek Overlook: Interpretive exhibit interpreting Black Ridge Panorama (low priority).
- c. The existing capacity and character quality of the Castle Rock and Knowles Canyon Campgrounds will be maintained.
- d. Expand/Reroute single-track trail system to include the Rim Trail and all identified "potential" trails (i.e., trails that are suitable except for requisite cultural clearances and those not having legal access across private inholdings).
- e. Inventory the area between I-70 and US Highway 6 & 50 to expand single-track trail riding opportunities in Rabbit Valley and conceivably connect into the Yampa Valley trail system via Baxter Pass.
- f. Expand the designated route system to include the area between I-70 and US Highway 6 & 50 so that only marked routes in this area also are open to motorized and mechanized travel.
- g. On an on-going basis, all single-track trails which are becoming too wide will be temporarily closed to allow natural rehabilitation to occur.

- k. On an on-going basis, to reduce hazardous situations and user conflicts, designate certain problem single-track trails as one-way directional routes.
- h. Keep the remainder of this zone (core) free of any further development to maintain its overall aesthetic quality.
- i. Maintain the existing landscape character of the Rabbit Valley viewshed south of I-70 at the Rabbit Valley Interchange (see Rabbit Valley: Trail Through Time zone prescriptions for how the northern viewshed at the I-70 interchange will be managed).

Human Use and Occupancy -- Social Setting:

- a. Except for group events, provide, through visitor information and education a social setting consistent with the character of the zone.
- b. Encourage day use of the zone.
- c. Encourage the use of stoves primarily, but provide campfire rings and grates for open fires at designated sites; open fires at undesignated sites will be authorized only by permit in the group use area.
- d. Any organized group use occurring in Rabbit Valley where "special management" is needed must request a special recreation permit (SRP) and may be subject to additional cost recovery charges. Special management is where resource conditions, use, health and safety concerns require specific actions or manpower to maintain resource objectives. Examples include: large civic club events, concerts, scout gatherings, rendezvous, etc. Casual use activities will be exempt from the SRP process and fees.

Service Delivery System -- Administrative Setting:

- a. Shift the location where existing BLM contact personnel spend their time, from being dispersed throughout the area to concentrating on primary ingress-egress routes to promote the achievement of targeted benefits that are dependent upon being able to more easily get away from a highly visible on-site BLM management presence.
- b. To resolve existing user group conflicts employ indirect measures, including an on-site management presence, user education and information, and exhaust all of them before resorting to direct controls.

- c. To allow an increasing number and diversity of visitors to achieve the benefits the area offers, no one person or group may camp in the same location for more than seven consecutive nights within a 30-day period.
- d. Encourage visitors to use existing developed recreation sites and certain historically used undeveloped sites by signing.
- e. Develop a comprehensive informational list of service providers and services provided and make it readily available to zone visitors through recreation-tourism industry outlets, at BLM's office, and at staging area.
- f. Encourage group events and activities to occur within an identified group use area in this zone.
- g. Coordinate with the BLM Grand Resource Area in Moab, Utah to make trail riding opportunities and travel management regulations along the state line compatible.
- h. Develop a cooperative agreement with private landowners to authorize BLM to help eliminate public lands visitor impacts on their lands.
- i. Encourage local entrepreneurs to continue offering shuttle service to Rabbit Valley, for mountain bikers in particular.

How the Tourism Industry Can Help:

- a. Market Kokopelli's Trail as a regional-national attraction (market single-track loop riding opportunities locally).
- b. Ensure that all zone brochures developed by local business, local off-highway vehicle clubs, the Grand Valley tourism industry, the Grand Valley Natural Resources and Tourism Council and the BLM are geared around the above interpretive themes, and explicitly describe the targeted settings and resulting activity and benefit opportunities.
- c. Ensure that marketing materials for the overall region are definitive enough to ensure that trail riding opportunities and not off-trail, cross-country riding experiences are what visitors seek.
- d. To maintain targeted benefit opportunities, publishers will be encouraged to write about Kokopelli's Trail but not focus on other Rabbit Valley riding opportunities.

How Interest and Volunteer Groups Can Help:

- a. Encourage motorcycle (including the Motorcycle Trail Riding Association) and mountain bike organizations (including the Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Trail Association) to adopt the trails to help organize and conduct patrols and maintain the trails.
- b. Assist in the development of brochures geared around the above interpretive themes.

Rabbit Valley Dinosaur Quarry/Trail Through Time

Management Objectives:

By the year 2000, manage this zone to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in Dinosaur fossil viewing activities, providing no less than 85% of responding visitors and affected community residents at least a "moderate" realization of these benefits (i.e., 3.5 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all, 2 = somewhat, 3 = moderate, 4 = complete/total realization):

Psychological Experiences (On-site only)

- Enjoying meeting new people having similar interests
- Enjoying directed experiential learning about dinosaur ecology and area geology
- Enjoying viewing/examining dinosaur fossils on your own in their natural setting

Individual Benefits -- psychological & physiological (most significant)

- Improved paleo curation skills
- Improved knowledge of area paleontology and geology
- Heightened awareness and improved understanding and appreciation of how dinosaurs lived, died and are still preserved.
- Greater overall awareness and understanding of and sensitivity to paleontology

Household & Community Benefits (most significant)

- Improved understanding of other people
- Heightened sense of community pride and satisfaction

- Improved social cohesion with people of the community having similar interests
- Reduced number of at-risk youth

Economic Benefits (most significant)

- Increased value added to local-regional economy

Environmental Benefits (most significant)

- Greater community involvement in paleo issues

Management Prescriptions: Inputs to Recreation Settings and the Service Delivery System (See Appendix C for a detailed description of each prescriptive class)

Deliver the benefits by maintaining the following diversity of physical, social, and managerial settings:

Physical: The **Land**: Resources and Facilities

Front Country -- Rural

Social: The **People**: Visitors, Guests & Customers

Middle Country -- Rural

Managerial: The **Administrative/Program environment**: BLM & Providing Partner Operations

Urban -- Rural -- Front Country

Management Actions for Trail Through Time Area

Resources and Facilities -- Physical Setting:

- a. Maintain and extend the existing Trail Thru Time to add another loop, to provide universal accessibility.

- b. Construct a small-scale, open design (i.e., to accommodate visitors with limited, part-time staffing) Visitor Contact Station for visitor outreach to:
 - Provide information about Rabbit Valley, public lands in western Colorado, and regional tourism attractions.
 - Foster greater stewardship of the land.
- c. Design and construct Trail Thru Time Interpretive Exhibits and provide limited personal services interpretive tours addressing the primary themes of paleontology and available benefit opportunities to promote achievement of targeted benefits.
- d. Develop an interpretive overlook exhibit to promote better visibility and understanding of quarry operations.

Human Use and Occupancy -- Social Setting:

- a. Provide a social setting consistent with the rural/urban character of the area (adjacent to I-70), where the group size is unlimited.

Service Delivery System -- Administrative Setting:

- a. Cooperatively manage the Trail Thru Time site and quarry through a CMA among BLM, the MWC, and DIS to expand the scientific body of paleontology knowledge.
- b. As part of the Grand Valley "Jurassic Park" visitor package, work with the Grand Valley Natural Resources and Tourism Council, the City of Fruita, the Visitors and Convention Bureau, the MWC, and the Devils Canyon Science and Learning Center to provide descriptive, accurate information and interpretive material on the Trail Through Time attraction.

How School District 51 Can Help

- a. Develop an outdoor classroom curriculum that incorporates on-site visits.

How the Tourism Industry Can Help:

- a. Cooperate with BLM and the school district to develop and market the quarry's educational opportunities.

- b. Ensure that all brochures developed for the zone explicitly describe the targeted benefit opportunities.

How Interest and Volunteer Groups Can Help:

- a. Staff the visitor contact station primarily with volunteers from cooperating partners on a part-time basis to serve peak use days.

McDonald Creek/Wildhorse Mesa/Rabbits Ear Mesa Areas

Management Objectives:

By the year 2000, manage this zone to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in hiking and horseback riding and rock art viewing activities providing no less than 85% of responding visitors and affected community residents at least a "moderate" realization of these benefits (i.e., 3.5 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all, 2 = somewhat, 3 = moderate, 4 = complete/total realization):

Psychological Experiences (On-site)

- Quickly accessing natural resource environments
- Enjoying frequent exercise
- Enjoying the closeness of friends and family
- Discovering/contemplating man's relationship with the land (Rabbits Ear)
- Enjoying exploration
- Enjoying being able to discover and learn about earlier cultures (McDonald Cr.)
- Enjoying canyon, river and rock art aesthetics

Individual Benefits -- psychological & physiological (most significant)

- Improved self reliance
- Improved understanding of human dependency on the land
- Increased knowledge of and sensitivity to earlier cultures
- Improved ability to relate to ranching and rural cultures
- Enhanced sense of stewardship for private land and respect for traditional cultures
- Enhanced cultural resource stewardship ethic
- Enhanced sense of freedom

- Greater cultivation of outdoor oriented lifestyle
- Increased quality of life
- Greater aesthetic appreciation

Household & Community Benefits (most significant)

- Greater nurturance of others
- Greater tolerance among traditional and new users

Economic Benefits (most significant)

- None

Environmental Benefits (most significant)

- Greater environmental stewardship
- Improved maintenance of biophysical systems

Management Prescriptions: Inputs to Recreation Settings and the Service Delivery System (See Appendix C for a detailed description of each prescriptive class)

Deliver the benefits by maintaining the following diversity of physical, social, and managerial settings:

Physical: The **Land**: Resources and Facilities

Backcountry

Social: The **People**: Visitors, Guests & Customers

Backcountry

Managerial: The **Administrative/Program environment**: BLM & Providing Partner Operations

Backcountry

Management Actions for Rabbit Valley -- McDonald Creek, Wildhorse Mesa and Rabbits Ear Mesa

Resources & Facilities--Physical Setting:

- a. Provide simple basic interpretive messages incorporating the following themes:

Informing visitors about specific Activity and Benefit Opportunities the zone is being managed to provide.

Preparing visitors for on-site canyon country environmental conditions and encourage them to adopt a responsible use ethic that respects:

- other visitor's experiences
- adjacent private landowners
- resources, including significant area cultural and paleo attractions
- use regulations, including appropriate firearms use

Inform visitors of traditional high use seasons and weekends

- b. Construct simple wayside interpretive exhibits at the following locations consisting of the following components:

McDonald Creek: Combination Interpretive/Informational Exhibit:

- Interpreting targeted Settings and Activity & Benefit Opportunities
- Map Depicting cultural management area
- Interpret an appropriate user ethic for viewing rock art

Rabbits Ear Trailhead:

- Map of route to Ruby Canyon Overlook
- Interpreting the value of and respect for rural lifestyles

Ruby Canyon Overlook: informational sign and landscape panorama

- c. Keep the remainder of this zone (core) free of any further development to maintain its overall aesthetic quality
- d. If the Gibson property is acquired, convert the access road to the river to a hiking trail to enlarge the Back Country physical setting

Human Use and Occupancy--*Social Setting:*

- a. Provide a social setting consistent with the character of the zone, limiting the size of groups to 12 people through visitor information and education (except for McDonald Creek because of its significance for teaching cultural awareness).
- b. Encourage only day-use of the zone
- c. Maintain opportunities for limited overnight use in Rabbits Ear and Wildhorse Mesa, but prohibit overnight use in McDonald Creek Cultural Resource Management Area
- d. Open fires will be prohibited within McDonald Creek Cultural Resource Management Area

Service Delivery System--*Administrative Setting:*

- a. BLM contact personnel will spend their time concentrating on primary ingress-egress routes.
- b. To allow an increasing number and diversity of visitors to achieve the benefits the area offers, no one person or group may camp in the same location for more than seven consecutive nights within a 30-day period
- c. Develop a cooperative agreement with willing private landowners to authorize BLM to help eliminate Public Lands visitor impacts on their lands
- d. Encourage local tourism industry and businesses to market use of the Rabbit's Ear as a soft adventure day-outing

How the Tourism Industry Can Help:

- a. Encourage local tourism industry and businesses to market use of the Rabbit's Ear as a soft adventure day-outing
- b. Ensure that all zone brochures developed by local business or the Grand Valley tourism industry, in coordination with the Grand Valley Natural Resources and Tourism Council and with BLM's assistance, are geared around the above interpretive themes, and explicitly describe the targeted settings and resulting activity and benefit opportunities.
- c. Ensure that marketing materials for the overall region are definitive enough to ensure that visitors can determine whether the opportunities available in this zone are what they seek--it provides trail riding opportunities and not off-trail, cross-country riding experiences
- d. To maintain targeted Benefit Opportunities, publishers will be encouraged to write about Kokopelli's Trail but not focus on other Rabbit Valley riding opportunities

How Interest & Volunteer Groups Can Help:

- a. Encourage motorcycle (including the Motorcycle Trail Riding Association) and mountain bike organizations (including the Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Trail Association) to adopt the trails to help organize and conduct patrols and maintain the trails
- b. Assist in the development of brochures geared around the above interpretive themes

2. ARCHAEOLOGIC-HISTORIC-PALEONTOLOGIC**Management Objectives:**

Manage the northern zone to provide for:

- a. The protection of archaeologically, historically, and paleontologically sensitive sites or localities in areas still open to locatable mineral entry.

- b. The protection of all archaeological and historical sensitive areas with special attention to areas of prescribed fire and planned prescribed burns in conformance with the fire management plan.
- c. The collection of scientifically important archaeological and/or historical objects and data only by individuals or organizations with proper permits.
- d. The collection of fossil wood and common invertebrates by private individuals in reasonable quantities, but done so as not to totally deplete the resource in any one area.

Management Prescriptions:

Deliver the benefits by adhering to the following management prescriptions:

- a. Maintaining partnerships that are well-established under Cooperative Management Agreements (CMA). So far, there is a CMA among BLM, Museum of Western Colorado (MWC) and Dinamation International Society (DIS) for Rabbit Valley Research Natural Area, Split Rock, Dinosaur Hill, and the Fruita Paleontological area - all are either within or adjacent to the RCBR area.
- b. Providing adequate funding/support for brochures, educational, and interpretive materials.
- c. Continued networking between the BLM and the various archaeological, historical, and paleontological interests.
- d. Encouraging archaeological, historical, and paleontological resources surveys or inventories in this area; making sure they are locating sites and localities on maps and filling out appropriate site and/or locality forms.
- e. Removing archaeologically, historically, and paleontologically sensitive sites and localities from locatable mineral entry through first identifying these resources and then running them through the proper procedure for mineral entry removal.
- f. Allowing recreational collecting of fossil wood and common invertebrates so as not to totally deplete the resource in any one area.

- g. Identification of archaeologically, historically, and paleontologically sensitive areas in relation to areas still open for locatable mineral entry.

Management Actions:

- a. Continue networking with archaeological, historical, and paleontological interests.
- b. Continue working under the CMA with the MWC and DIS in assembling an archaeological and paleontological overview of the GJRA (includes the RCBR area).
- c. Work with partnerships to educate the public about appropriate uses of archaeological, historical, and paleontological resources. This may involve the use of brochures, exhibits, programs, etc.
- d. Maintain interpretive trails in Rabbit Valley, at nearby Dinosaur Hill, and possibly consider one or more new trails either interpreted, or used with a guide (Split Rock, Fruita Paleontologic Site, etc.).
- e. Promote use of the GJRA "Fossil Education Kit" and the archaeological education program developed by Anasazi Heritage Center, within and by local community groups.
- f. Encourage archaeologists, historians, and paleontologists with existing or potential research interests in the area. This can be done by working closely with them and encouraging them to do quality, permitted, field work and in keeping this process as simple as possible.

3. VEGETATION

Management Objectives:

Manage the northern zone to provide the following desired outcomes:

- a. Diverse vegetative communities to enhance ecological processes and provide a mosaic of habitats for wildlife and livestock.
- b. Plant communities with minimal levels of cheatgrass.

- c. Livestock forage at or above present levels (AUM's) in each grazing allotment.
- d. Habitat for antelope, particularly a perennial grass, forb and shrub community.
- e. Viable populations of special status plant species.
- f. An aesthetically pleasing environment for public land users.

Management Prescriptions:

Deliver the desired outcomes by:

- a. Attaining the desired plant community in Appendix E.

Management Actions:

- a. Develop activity plans which include grazing strategies that promote the Desired Plant Community.
- b. Plan for dormant season use and/or spring grazing use that provides periodic rest during critical growth periods.
- c. Encourage management practices that decrease the abundance of cheatgrass and increase perennial vegetation. Possibilities include:
 - * Reseeding of areas following fire.
 - * Rehabilitation of disturbed areas (unplanned trails, parking areas campsites, etc.).
 - * Grazing strategies which minimize overgrazing of perennial vegetation through periodic rest.
 - * Restrict recreational use to designated areas only.
- d. Encourage management practices which create and/or maintain diverse vegetative communities for forage and cover. Possibilities include:
 - * Seed mixtures that compliment the Desired Plant Community.
 - * Prescribed burns.
- e. Use prescribed fire to maintain the mosaic of ecological and vegetative types. The following fire management will apply:

North of I-70 and south of I-70, east of Salt Creek

- Protection of shrub community for wildlife by suppressing all fires.

South of I-70 - west of Salt Creek

- Allow for planned prescribed burns in conformance with the fire management plan. Reseed on a case-by-case basis.

- f. Develop partnerships with livestock operators and other users to encourage management that promotes the DPC or other land health goals.
- g. Develop tools for educating the public on the ecological processes and the relationship to the diverse uses.
 - * Pamphlets
 - * Information Boards
 - * Packages for School Programs
 - * Watchable "Ecology Sites"

4. **SOIL, WATER, AIR**

Management Objectives:

Manage the northern zone to provide for:

- a. Functioning watersheds.
- b. Protection and/or enhancement of water quality.
- c. Reduction in soil erosion.

Management Prescriptions:

Deliver the benefits in this zone by:

- a. Managing for Desired Plant Community objectives.
- b. Maintaining or improving vegetative cover.
- c. Implementing management practices that minimize surface disturbance.

- d. Maintaining air quality standards.

Management Actions:

- a. Withdraw the Rabbit Valley Research Natural Area, Split Rock Trail, and McDonald Creek Cultural Resource Area from locatable mineral entry.
- b. Utilize wildlife and livestock grazing strategies that enhance vegetative cover.
- c. Encourage management practices that reduce the effects of surface disturbance such as rehabilitation of disturbed area, reseeding following fire, implementation of "Best Management Practices", and maintenance of sediment control structures.

5. WILDLIFE AND THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

Management Objectives:

Manage the northern zone to provide for:

- a. The enjoyment of wildlife as part of every visitors experience.
- b. Measurable harvests of cottontails, mourning doves, and chukars.
- c. Seventy-five birding recreation days per year (people specifically visiting to find certain birds).
- d. Security for native wildlife and rare plant populations.
- e. Confidence that no species listed for Endangered Species Act protection is adversely affected by human actions.

Management Prescriptions:

Deliver the benefits in this zone by adhering to the following management prescriptions:

- a. Acclaimed success in rapid education of visitors about species abundances, roles in the community and how to detect their presence.

- b. Developing educational and promotional projects that avoid scare language in reference to wildlife-related hazards and inform about timing, severity, and avoidance tips regarding outdoor pests, and also explain the known environmental roles of these pest species.
- c. Increasing visitor ability to identify the rare and the often seen species in the area.
- d. Increasing visitor recognition of society's role in maintaining biodiversity; wildlife and rare plant information is presented in the ecoregional context, i.e., the Colorado Plateau, Intermountain Region.
- e. Maintaining extensive and accessible inventory and monitoring data.
- f. Providing reliable watering sites near small game cover and nesting habitat.
- g. Assuring that disturbances to rare plants and animals is minimal and within the limits of toleration by the species.
- h. Assuring that habitat suitable for reintroduction of native species that have been locally extirpated, does not acquire uses that eliminate the option to reintroduce the species. Black-footed ferret is example species.

Management Actions:

- a. Add wildlife educational messages to the kiosks, outdoor toilets, parking areas, signs, and brochures.
- b. Produce 30-second spots to be aired on local TV stations in late March or early April with messages to the potential visitor.
- c. Pursue the short-range radio idea with CDOW and tourist agencies to be centered at Exit 2.
- d. Publish in the American Birding Association's *Winging it* a write-up on the birding that is available just off I-70 at the west edge of Colorado.
- e. To improve the distribution of small game, install six visually obscure water catchments (guzzlers).

- f. Produce for public use an annotated checklist of Rabbit Valley wildlife that is actively revised.
- g. Protect the two sensitive plant species, *Cryptantha osterhoutii* and *Amsonia jonesii* by vigilantly preventing trail formation near these plants and steering ground disturbing activities away from the sites.
- h. Install culverts and, as practical, culvert inserts to provide secure escape shelter for kit foxes in this area of abnormally dense coyote population.
- i. All cliffs that are or have been occupied by peregrine falcon eyries will be closed to trail use on the tops and rock climbing from March 15 to July 15. Waive this restriction after April 15 in the years the cliff is unoccupied. Choice of these cliffs for trails and rock climbing at any time of the year will be discouraged.
- j. Only small scale, hand-applied use of herbicides and pesticides will be authorized.
- k. Open the potential black-footed ferret habitat in the Rabbit Valley area and lands adjacent to the Grand Valley Desert to the north for the establishment of a viable population of black-footed ferrets and cooperate in the release preparation procedures.

B. COLORADO RIVER

1. RECREATION

Management Objectives:

By the year 2000, manage this zone to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in boating (raft, canoe, kayak), day hiking into the lower ends of major canyons, viewing wildlife and waterfowl hunting activities, providing no less than 85% of responding visitors and affected community residents at least a "moderate" realization of these benefits (i.e. 3.5 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all, 2 = somewhat, 3 = moderate, 4 = complete/total realization):

Psychological Experiences (On-site only)

- Meeting desired challenges
- Enjoy risk taking canyon adventures
- Enjoying the closeness of family and friends
- Enjoying learning outdoor recreation & outdoor social skills
- Savoring river canyon aesthetics
- Enjoying reflecting on personal and family values
- Enjoying mental and physical rest

Individual Benefits -- psychological & physiological (most significant)

- Restored mind from unwanted stress
- Greater self-assurance
- Greater outdoor knowledge, skills & self-confidence
- Greater cultivation of outdoor oriented lifestyle
- Increased quality of life
- Greater aesthetic appreciation
- Well informed and more responsible visitors

Household & Community Benefits (most significant)

- Improved functioning of individuals in family and community
- Heightened sense of community pride and satisfaction
- Reduced numbers of at-risk youth
- Maintained and enhanced group cohesion & family bonding
- Greater nurturance of others

Economic Benefits (most significant)

- Well equipped customers
- Increased value added to local-regional economy

Environmental Benefits (most significant)

- Greater environmental stewardship

Management Prescriptions: Inputs to Recreation Settings and the Service Delivery System (See Appendix C for a detailed description of each prescriptive class)

Deliver the benefits by maintaining the following diversity of physical, social, and managerial settings:

Physical: The **Land**: Resources and Facilities

Rural -- Front Country -- Middle Country

Social: The **People**: Visitors, Guests & Customers

Rural -- Front Country -- Middle Country

Managerial: The **Administrative/Program environment**: BLM & Providing Partner Operations

Rural -- Front Country -- Middle Country

Management Actions for Ruby Canyon:

Resources and Facilities--Physical Setting:

In cooperation with Colorado State Parks, help design facilities to be built at the Fruita Recreation Site to overcome the physical limitations of the Loma Launch site.

- a. At the Fruita Recreation Site cooperate with Colorado State Parks in building the following facilities:
 - Boat launch ramp (gravel surface).
 - Interpretive exhibits that accurately portray targeted activities and benefit opportunities.
- b. Develop interpretive exhibits (incorporating archaeology and wildlife) at the Fruita Recreation Site to help visitors achieve targeted benefits: promote more well-informed and responsible visitors, foster aesthetic appreciation, and to improve outdoor skills and the self-confidence of the visitors.
- c. Remove tamarisk at key sites along the river to create new undeveloped camping sites and lunch sites.
- d. Develop a watchable wildlife site (in partnership with DOW) at the recently acquired Horsethief property and near the Fruita Recreation Site.
- e. Maintain land-based ingress roads and trails into Ruby Canyon at present conditions without improvements.
- f. Prohibit motor vehicles and mountain bikes from accessing the river shoreline from the east and west Horsethief benches.

Human Use and Occupancy--*Social Setting*:

- a. Inform visitors about the overnight recreational opportunities in Ruby Canyon; including side hikes in the lower one and one-half mile portions of Rattlesnake, Mee and Knowles Canyons and the day-use floating opportunities upstream from Corn Lake to Fruita.
- b. Manage the zone, including the lower one and one-half miles of Knowles, Mee, and Rattlesnake Canyons, for an optimum group size not to exceed 25 people to promote the realization of the targeted benefits, to protect the riparian environment and side canyons from overuse by large groups (inside the Black Ridge Canyons WSA).
- c. Close portions of the river shoreline to recreational use on a seasonal or other temporary basis to minimize disruption of bald eagles, peregrine falcons, and other sensitive species.

- d. Visitors may camp at undeveloped campsites on public lands throughout the corridor unless Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) monitoring indicates a need for directing use and hardening specific sites that were historically used to reduce visitor camping impacts.
- e. Visitors may do recreational gold panning. Prohibit the use of portable sluicing and dredging devices unless authorized under permit and only if the activity falls within specified limitations.
- f. Manage the lower one and one-half miles of Knowles, Mee, and Rattlesnake Canyons under the social setting prescription for the Ruby Canyon zone, all remaining portions of Black Ridge West will be managed according to the Black Ridge West social setting prescriptions.
- g. To promote greater access at launch sites and reduce crowding, parties will be encouraged to unload and move vehicles to designated parking areas within 20 minutes or less.
- h. Designate, sign, and maintain necessary and favored trails within the river corridor; eliminate and rehabilitate all nonessential social trails radiating from high use sites.
- i. Encourage "Leave-No-Trace" camping and hiking within the river corridor.

Service Delivery System--Administrative Setting:

- a. Enter into a CMA with the City of Fruita and the Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR) to jointly manage the Fruita Recreation Site and on-river use.
- b. Designate the Colorado River corridor between Loma and Westwater as a "Special Area", and compile a business plan and conduct a study on the feasibility of charging all users a fee for the use of the area.
- c. Continue to pursue acquisition of all key riparian areas to enhance recreational opportunities and improve access.
- d. Continue to evaluate other additional access sites to the river.

- e. BLM welcomes ideas by entrepreneurs for services needed by visitors. Each year the Grand Junction Resource Area will decide using management experience and service provider input if additional services are needed.
- f. Develop a comprehensive informational list of service providers and services provided and make them readily available to zone visitors.
- g. Direct allocation of river use will only be undertaken after all indirect measures (e.g., including education, information, facility construction to ease pressure off of high-use areas and high-use periods, increasing access to and developing opportunities on the Gunnison River, etc.) are exhausted.
- h. BLM and its outfitting service partners will conduct a one-day interpretive seminar for guides on user ethics, available recreation opportunities and area management guidelines.
- i. To promote achievement of targeted benefits, both commercial jet boat and personalized water craft operations will be discouraged. See Monitoring, Chapter 6 for management actions that may be employed if levels of motorized water craft on the river reach unacceptable levels.
- j. Develop interpretive materials, collaborating with the Grand Valley Natural Resources and Tourism Council, the Grand Valley tourism industry, the City of Fruita, and CDOW, including a waterproof map-brochure geared around the themes: 1. targeted activity and benefit opportunities, 2. targeted settings, and 3. user ethics to help visitors prepare for river conditions; managerial, landowner, and other visitor expectations (including motorized and non-motorized courtesy); resource quality; and 4. high-use periods to be avoided.
- k. BLM will increase on-site presence at the put-in locations.
- l. Coordinate with the Colorado River State Park and Riverfront Commissions further upstream to encourage visitors seeking shorter trips to use those river segments.
- m. Encourage event promoters to consider upstream locations from the Fruita Recreation Site for river-related special events.
- n. To promote the achievement of targeted benefits, limit the number of commercial float outfitters to current levels (34), and do not issue additional permits if existing outfitters relinquish their permit.

How the Tourism Industry Can Help:

- a. Work with the Grand Valley tourism industry, the City of Fruita and area tourism businesses to ensure that all future interpretive and marketing materials explicitly describe the targeted settings, and resulting activity and benefit opportunities.
- b. Work with the Grand Valley tourism industry and area tourism businesses to inform visitors about the overnight recreational opportunities in Ruby Canyon; including side hikes in the lower one and one-half mile portions of Rattlesnake, Mee and Knowles Canyons and the day-use floating opportunities upstream from Corn Lake to Fruita.
- c. Ensure that the tourism industry marketing materials accurately reflect the type of preferred use, to promote the achievement of benefits geared at helping visitors "soak-up and capture the area's desirable aesthetics" and to help them "be away from the pressure of encountering too many people" passing in motorized craft.
- d. Work with the City of Fruita, Grand Valley tourism groups and area tourism businesses to include user ethics messages in their tourism materials that encourage their clients to: 1. be adequately equipped for the river environment and have adequate understanding of how human actions impact it, and 2. promote a responsible use ethic that respects other visitors' experiences, and adjacent landowners and grazing permittees.
- e. Encourage private sector entrepreneurs to develop commercial area campgrounds in the Loma area to provide overnight accommodations for river (and mountain bike) use.

How Interest and Volunteer Groups Can Help:

- a. Continue to volunteer time and expertise to assist managers in maintaining recreational facilities and resources.
- b. Volunteer patrols to help educate peer users.
- c. Ensure that interest group's initiatives and volunteer patrols are compatible with the zone's overriding management objectives.

2. **ARCHAEOLOGIC-HISTORIC-PALEONTOLOGIC**

Management Objectives:

Manage the Colorado River to provide for:

- a. The protection of archaeologically and historically sensitive sites or localities.
- b. The protection of all archaeological and historical sensitive areas with special attention to areas of prescribed fire and planned prescribed burns in conformance with the fire management plan.
- c. The collection of scientifically-important archaeological and/or historical objects or fossils (mainly dinosaur bones) by individuals or organizations with proper permits.
- d. The collection of fossil wood and common invertebrates by private individuals in reasonable quantities, but done so as not to totally deplete the resource in any one area.

Management Prescriptions:

Deliver the benefits by adhering to the following management prescriptions:

- a. Providing funding/support for brochures and interpretive materials.
- b. Continued networking between the BLM and the various archaeological, historical, and paleontological interests.
- c. Finishing and later updating the GJRA archaeological, historical, and paleontological overviews, including the RCBR area.

Management Actions:

- a. Continue working with partnerships to educate the public about appropriate uses of archaeological, historical, and paleontological resources. This may involve the use of brochures, exhibits, programs, etc.

- b. Encourage archaeologists, historians, and paleontologists with existing or potential research interests in the area. This can be done by working closely with them and encouraging them to do quality, permitted, field work in the area.
- c. Finish archaeological and paleontological overviews of GJRA, which will assemble known site and locality data.
- d. Encourage archaeological, historical, and paleontological resources surveys or inventories in this area, and make sure they are locating sites and localities on standard topographic maps and filling out appropriate site and locality forms and other forms of documentation.

3. **VEGETATION**

Management Objectives:

Manage the Colorado River to provide for the following desired outcomes:

- a. The assurance that cottonwood galleries (mature and young) will remain part of the vegetative community along the Colorado River.
- b. Diverse riparian plant communities providing diverse habitats.
- c. Native plant communities which are in harmony with a functioning river system.
- d. Habitat for threatened and endangered species in particular the bald eagle, peregrine falcon and southwest willow flycatcher.
- e. An aesthetically pleasing environment for recreational users.

Management Prescriptions:

Deliver the desired outcomes by:

- a. Attaining the desired plant community as described in Appendix E.

Management Actions:

- a. Manage uses to promote the desired plant community.

b. Grazing Use: Plan for grazing use which:

Assures adequate plant residue is present during high water periods thus protecting river banks, dissipating flood energy and trapping sediment.

Provides for periodic rest during critical growth periods for both herbaceous and woody species when possible.

Where possible utilize grazing as a tool to reduce fuel loads for fire prevention.

c. Recreation Use: Plan for recreational use which:

Minimizes the impacts to the surrounding riparian vegetation.

- Require the use of dead material only for firewood except for tamarisk.
- Encourage the use of tamarisk as firewood.
- Locate campsites away from riparian zone.

Decreases wild fire potential in areas occupied by native plant species particularly cottonwood trees and willows.

- Require the use of fire pans for campfires or a bucket of water for preventative measures in the riparian zone.
- Where appropriate, clear fuels in high fire potential areas.

Minimizes trail activity along riparian areas.

d. Encourages management practices which create and/or maintain diverse vegetative communities.

- Utilize seed mixtures that would compliment the desired plant community which rehabilitating disturbed areas.
- Prescribed fire may be utilized to maintain the mosaic of ecological and successional vegetative types.
- Review fires for rehabilitation possibilities.

e. Weed/Non-native species control:

Approximately 15 acres of tamarisk control would be done with ground crews lopping tamarisk and painting the stumps with a short-lived

herbicide and planting desirable native riparian woody plants. The shrubs on berms blocking the best river backwater channels would be targeted.

Approximately two acres of knapweed will be plowed prior to seed development and seeded to native warm-season, perennial grass as an experiment and if safe and successful up to five acres would be done.

Only small scale, hand-applied use of herbicides and pesticides will be authorized.

- f. Develop tools for educating the public on the ecological processes and the relationship to the diverse uses.
 - Pamphlets.
 - Information boards.
 - Packages for school programs
 - Watchable "Ecology" Sites.

4. **SOIL, WATER, AIR**

Management Objectives:

Manage the Colorado River to provide for:

- a. A functioning floodplain.
- b. Stable streambanks.
- c. Acceptable air quality.

Management Prescriptions:

Deliver the benefits by:

- a. Maintaining or enhance desirable riparian vegetation along banks and in the floodplain.
- b. Maintaining air quality standards.

Management Actions:

- a. Minimize recreational impacts to the riparian vegetation.
- b. Encourage management practices which create and maintain diverse native vegetative communities.
- c. Utilize and/or restrict fire as appropriate to maintain a mosaic of ecological and successional vegetative types.

5. WILDLIFE AND T&E SPECIES**Management Objectives:**

Manage the Colorado River to provide for:

- a. Enjoyment of wildlife as part of every visitors experience, specifically opportunities for float trip visitors to identify wildlife, notably bald eagles and peregrine falcons.
- b. Measurable harvests of cottontails, chukars, and Gambel's quail.
- c. One thousand waterfowl hunter days per year.
- d. Five hundred fishing days per year.
- e. Security for native wildlife and rare plant populations.
- f. Confidence that no species listed for Endangered Species Act protection is adversely affected by human actions.

Management Prescriptions:

Deliver the benefits by adhering to the following management prescriptions:

- a. Acclaimed success in rapid education of visitors about species abundances, roles in the community and how to detect their presence.
- b. Developing educational and promotional projects that avoid scare language in reference to wildlife-related hazards and inform about timing,

severity, and avoidance tips regarding outdoor pests, and also explain the known environmental roles of these pest species.

- c. Increasing visitor ability to identify the rare and the often seen species in the area.
- d. Increasing visitor recognition of society's role in maintaining biodiversity; wildlife and rare plant information is presented in the ecoregional context, i.e., the Colorado Plateau, Intermountain Region.
- e. Maintaining extensive and accessible inventory and monitoring data.
- f. Assuring disturbances to native plants and animals, especially nesting geese and bald eagles, is minimal and within the limits of toleration by the species.
- g. Managing for at least one nesting pair of bald eagles and four active peregrine falcon eyries.
- h. Providing opportunities to enhance the habitats of native plants and animals.

Management Actions:

- a. Add wildlife educational messages to the kiosks, outdoor toilets, parking areas, signs, and brochures.
- b. Produce 30-second spots to be aired on local TV stations in late March or early April with messages to the potential visitor.
- c. Regularly update information on river access points and the fishing resource to public information specialists.
- d. Produce for public use a "Checklist of Wildlife Activities We Can Do on the River".
- e. Educate boaters to avoid close approaches to geese from Loma Boat Launch Site downstream to Utah state line in order to prevent nest abandonment.
- f. To maintain its suitability for nesting bald eagles, Chow Doggone Island would be closed to camping if it is observed that people are beginning to

camp there. The flammable material below the nest tree will be reduced. This type of response would apply to other locations as the nest site(s) shifts.

- g. All cliffs that are or have been occupied by peregrine falcon eyries will be closed to rock climbing from March 15 to July 15. Choice of these cliffs for rock climbing at any time of the year will be discouraged.
- h. If it continues to look feasible, a channel on the north side of the river will be dredged to create shallow backwater through a significant span of river heights.
- i. To avoid adverse appropriation of lands along the river, continue attempting to acquire the private lands along the river in Horsethief and Ruby Canyons.

C. SOUTH OF THE RIVER

1. RECREATION

Management Objectives for Black Ridge Canyons East -- Southern Perimeter and Arches:

By the year 2000, manage this zone to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in viewing of the arches, mountain bike riding and OHV driving activities, providing no less than 85% of responding visitors and affected community residents at least a "moderate" realization of these benefits (i.e. 3.5 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all, 2 = somewhat, 3 = moderate, 4 = complete/total realization):

Psychological Experiences (On-site only)

- Enjoying the closeness of family and friends
- Enjoying viewing and exploring the arches
- Enjoying artistic self-expression
- Enjoying having a tour operator take us to the arches

Individual Benefits -- psychological & physiological (most significant)

- Increased artistic self-expression
- Greater sense of freedom in being able to get to this special place
- Greater visitor satisfaction in being able to do desired trips
- Enhanced sense of place ethic
- Greater community appreciation of the arts
- Greater aesthetic appreciation

Household & Community Benefits (most significant)

- Heightened sense of community pride and satisfaction
- Maintained and enhanced group cohesion & family bonding

Economic Benefits (most significant)

- Satisfied guests
- Improved economic stability from tourism

Environmental Benefits (most significant)

- Improved relationship with the natural world
- Improved community involvement in environmental issues

Management Prescriptions: Inputs to Recreation Settings and the Service Delivery System (See Appendix C for a detailed description of each prescriptive class)

Deliver the benefits by maintaining the following diversity of physical, social, and managerial settings:

Physical: The **Land:** Resources and Facilities

Front Country -- Middle Country -- Back Country

Social: The **People:** Visitors, Guests & Customers

Front Country -- Middle Country -- Back Country

Managerial: The **Administrative/Program environment:** BLM & Providing Partner Operations

Front Country -- Middle Country -- Back Country

Management Actions for Black Ridge Canyons East -- Southern Perimeter and Arches:
Resources & Facilities--Physical Setting:

- a. The Upper Bench and lower Black Ridge roads will be the primary access routes to the arches. Both routes will be maintained to 4x4 standards. They will be managed alternately to accommodate motorized vehicles using the following seasonal schedules:

The Upper Bench road: Open to all motorized vehicles from April 15th to August 15th only. Open remainder of the year to people on foot, horseback or mountain bike.

The lower Black Ridge road: Open to all motorized vehicles from August 15th to February 15th only. Open remainder of the year to above activities.

Both routes will be closed to all motorized vehicles during the spring mud season: February 15 to April 15. Exceptions include emergency administrative use (search and rescue) and authorized access for grazing permittees. Both roads may be temporarily closed at any time to prevent resource damage.

- b. Designate travel routes on the upper bench from the Upper Bench Road.
- c. Improve undeveloped parking area at the intersection of the Glade Park Road and the Black Ridge Road to accommodate visitors who want to ride horses or bike on either road. This could include developing an interpretive site and short hiking trail at the old Civilian Conservation Corp location (5ME6894).
- d. Only if use warrants, and if feasible, construct two trailheads along the Upper Bench Road, and construct hiking trails from them to provide hiking access into the Pollock Canyons-Devils Canyon upland areas. If constructed the trail into Devils Canyon may have season closures to protect the desert bighorn sheep.
- e. Develop interpretive exhibits at the parking areas/trailheads to orient visitors to the area, interpret benefits provided, area geology, archaeology/history, and ecology, and to promote a special place ethic.
- f. Physically barricade and rehabilitate spur routes off of the lower Black Ridge road.

Human Use & Occupancy--Social Setting:

- a. To provide a social setting consistent with the character of the arches, the size of groups traveling to the arches will be limited to 12 people through visitor information and education.
- b. Encourage day-use of the area and backpacking. No overnight parking would be permitted along the Ute Trail (see map). Overnight vehicle camping will only be allowed on the upper bench. All backpackers will be required to leave their cars on the upper bench or at the Mee Canyon trailhead.
- c. On-site camping near-vehicles will be prohibited (i.e., within one-quarter mile of the road), and visitors will be encouraged to use nearby National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, and BLM campgrounds.

Service Delivery System--Administrative Setting:

- a. Work with the Grand Valley Natural Resources and Tourism Council to provide descriptive and accurate information about access to the area and available recreation opportunities to orient visitors to the area and to help visitors achieve targeted benefits.
- b. Work with tour operators to provide a diversity of arches tours, including a combination of 4WD, mountain biking, and hiking trips consistent with WSA travel restrictions.
- c. Provide two familiarization (FAM) tours annually to orient Grand Valley visitor contact and support services personnel to the area.
- d. Work with local private landowners to identify and sign locations where visitors frequently trespass.
- e. Issue a Request For Proposals (RFP) to commercial entrepreneurs to diversify the types of float trips available and combination hiking-float trips associated with adjacent Black Ridge Canyon hikes to accommodate a growing demand for a variety of benefits.
- f. Develop a comprehensive informational list of service providers and services provided and make them readily available to visitors.

How the Tourism Industry Can Help:

- a. Work with the Grand Junction Visitor and Convention Bureau (VCB) and area tourism businesses to ensure that all future promotional materials explicitly describe the targeted settings, and resulting activity and benefit opportunities for this zone.
- b. Market the wilderness, and the diversity of experiences as a national and regional attraction.
- c. Work with the Grand Junction VCB and area tourism businesses to include user ethics messages in their promotional materials that encourage their clients to: 1. be adequately equipped for the desert environment and have adequate understanding of how human actions impact it, and 2. promote a responsible use ethic that respects other visitors' experiences, and adjacent landowners and grazing permittees.

How Interest and Volunteer Groups Can Help:

- a. Continue to volunteer time and expertise to assist managers in maintaining recreational facilities and resources.
- b. Volunteer patrols to help inform, educate and assist users.
- c. Ensure that interest group initiatives are compatible with the zone's overriding management objectives.

Management Objectives for Black Ridge Canyons East -- Pollock Canyon Complex:

By the year 2000, manage this zone to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in day hiking and mountain bike riding activities, providing no less than 85% of responding visitors and affected community residents at least a "moderate" realization of these benefits (i.e. 3.5 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all, 2 = somewhat, 3 = moderate, 4 = complete/ total realization):

Psychological Experiences (On-site only)

- Enjoying frequent access to a range of physical challenge
- Enjoying easy access to diverse primitive and unconfined outdoor recreation environments
- Enjoying learning about man's influence on the natural world and its potential beneficial influence on individuals, society, and the economy (Devils Canyon)
- Savoring river canyon aesthetics
- Escaping everyday responsibilities for awhile
- Releasing or reducing some built up mental tensions
- Appreciating knowing others are nearby for social interaction and risk reduction

Individual Benefits -- psychological & physiological (most significant)

- Improved sense of control over one's life
- Improved understanding of how involvement in natural settings builds character
- Improved understanding of rural-urban interface
- Improved understanding of Wilderness

- Greater scholarship and a more positive mental attitude about learning
- Greater freedom from urban living
- Greater environmental awareness and sensitivity

Household & Community Benefits (most significant)

- Increased opportunity for affiliation with others
- Increased social support

Economic Benefits (most significant)

- Increased work productivity

Environmental Benefits (most significant)

- Improved relationship with the natural world
- Improved land stewardship

Management Prescriptions: Inputs to Recreation Settings and the Service Delivery System (See Appendix C for a detailed description of each prescriptive class)

Deliver the benefits by maintaining the following diversity of physical, social, and managerial settings:

Physical: The **Land**: Resources and Facilities

Rural -- Front Country -- Middle Country -- Back Country

Social: The **People**: Visitors, Guests & Customers

Front Country -- Middle Country -- Back Country

Managerial: The **Administrative/Program environment**: BLM & Providing Partner Operations

Rural -- Front Country -- Middle Country -- Back Country

Management Actions for Black Ridge Canyons East -- Pollock Canyon Complex:

Resources and Facilities--Physical Setting:

- a. Manage under BLM's Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review those acquired lands contiguous to the WSA boundary presently meeting wilderness criteria until congressional action is taken on the Black Ridge Canyons WSA, either releasing them from wilderness review or designating all or part of them as wilderness.
- b. Develop a foot and horseback loop trail into the Pollock Canyon and Flume Canyon upland areas.
- c. During the WSA interim management period, mountain biking will be allowed to continue on the Pollock Bench Trail. BLM and adopt-a-trail volunteers will continue to monitor mountain bike use on the trail. Bike use may be prohibited if unacceptable resource impacts are occurring.
- d. Develop a Devils Canyon Outdoor Classroom at the mouth of Devils Canyon consisting of a series of nature trails, a natural amphitheater (i.e., taking advantage of existing landscape terrain), and a restroom to accommodate school groups.
- e. Develop parking area for the Devils Canyon Outdoor Classroom and trailhead at the mouth of Devils Canyon for the existing trail to the head of the canyon.
- f. Develop a single-track mountain bike loop in the non-wilderness portion of Devils Canyon.
- g. Manage Devils Canyon to reduce impacts to desert bighorn sheep. Discourage hiking beyond cabin or in side canyons, and rock climbing during spring lambing season (April 1 - June 1).
- h. Change travel management status from "open to existing roads and trails" to "open to designated routes only" from Kodels Canyon to Pollock Canyon.
- i. Manage Flume, Devils and Kodels Canyons area for non-motorized use only.
- j. Manage Flume Canyon for hiking and equestrian use only.

- k. Rehabilitate acquired lands in Devils Canyon by removing unneeded structures and facilities.

Human Use & Occupancy--*Social Setting:*

- a. Manage the zone primarily for day-use recreation but also let people know about back country camping opportunities (all will be undesignated) within the area and in other portions of the Black Ridge Canyons WSA.
- b. Manage the zone for an optimum group size not to exceed 12 to 15 people to promote the realization of the targeted benefits.
- c. Establish a "no-shooting zone" (hunting still allowed) in Kodels and Devils Canyons between the river southwest of Fruita and the Pollock Bench Trailhead to provide visitor safety.

Service Delivery System--*Administrative Setting:*

- a. Develop an environmental education program at the Devils Canyon Outdoor Classroom collaboratively with School District 51, DIS, Grand Junction Department of Social Services, the CDOW, the Department of Outdoor Recreation and local neighborhood associations (including Kings View Estates).
- b. Adopt an aggressive "Leave No Trace" visitor information outreach program to stimulate a wilderness ethic among zone visitors.
- c. Work with commercial entrepreneurs/outfitters to identify the need for guided back-country hiking trips, shuttle service for hikers in the area, etc.
- d. Enlist the services of DIS (and the Devils Canyon Science and Learning Center) and the MWC to provide guided interpretive tours and non-guided interpretation of the Fruita Paleontological Site and Dinosaur Hill, coordinated with the Devils Canyon Outdoor Classroom.
- e. Coordinate with the CDOW and the Bureau of Reclamation to consolidate state and federal lands to improve manageability of public lands in the zone (BLM manage areas south of main Horsethief Canyon access road and Bureau of Reclamation/CDOW manage areas north of the main Horsethief Canyon access road).

- f. Implement a permit-system for mountain bikers using the Pollock Bench Trail. The permit system would be in partnership with COPMOBA and local bike shops. The permits would provide information to the users about the WSA, user ethics, and help BLM monitor user number and visitor experiences/benefits.

How the Tourism Industry Can Help:

- a. Work with the Grand Junction VCB and area tourism businesses to ensure that all future promotional materials explicitly describe the targeted settings, and resulting activity and benefit opportunities for this zone.
- b. Market the area's diverse recreation opportunities as a national-regional attraction. (Ensure that the mountain bike opportunities on Pollock Bench Trail are not promoted on a regional or national basis.)
- c. Work with the Grand Junction VCB and area tourism businesses to include user ethics messages in their promotional materials that encourage their clients to: 1. be adequately equipped for the desert environment and have adequate understanding of how human actions impact it, and 2. promote a responsible use ethic that respects other visitors' experiences, and the rights of adjacent landowners and grazing permittees.

How Interest and Volunteer Groups Can Help:

- a. Continue to volunteer time and expertise to assist managers in maintaining recreational facilities and resources.
- b. Volunteer patrols to help educate peer users.
- c. Ensure that interest group initiatives are compatible with the zone's overriding management objectives.

Management Objectives for Black Ridge Canyons West:

By the year 2000, manage this zone to provide opportunities for visitors to engage in wilderness backpacking and big game hunting activities, providing no less than 85% of responding visitors and affected community residents at least a "moderate" realization of these benefits (i.e. 3.5 on a probability scale where 1 = not at all, 2 = somewhat, 3 = moderate, 4 = complete/total realization):

Note: This and other planned management restrictions are portrayed on the map on the following page.

RECREATION MANAGEMENT RESTRICTIONS MAP
(MISSING)

Psychological Experiences (On-site only)

- Meeting desired challenges
- Enjoy risk-taking canyon adventure
- Improving skills
- Testing your endurance
- Feeling good about being isolated & independent
- Savoring wilderness aesthetics
- Enjoying reflecting on personal and family values

Individual Benefits -- psychological & physiological (most significant)

- Improved physical fitness/better health maintenance
- Greater overall sense of overall wellness
- Renewed human spirit
- Improved self-reliance
- Improved outdoor knowledge, skills and self confidence
- Greater cognitive efficiency
- Enhanced sense of freedom
- Greater environmental awareness and sensitivity

Household & Community Benefits (most significant)

- None

Economic Benefits (most significant)

- None

Environmental Benefits (most significant)

- Greater environmental stewardship

Management Prescriptions: Inputs to Recreation Settings and the Service Delivery System (See Appendix C for a detailed description of each prescriptive class)

Deliver the benefits by maintaining the following diversity of physical, social, and managerial settings:

*Physical: The **Land**: Resources and Facilities*

Front Country -- Middle Country -- Back Country -- Primitive

*Social: The **People**: Visitors, Guests & Customers*

Back Country -- Primitive

*Managerial: The **Administrative/Program environment**: BLM & Providing Partner Operations*

Front Country -- Back Country -- Primitive

Management Actions for Black Ridge West:

Resources & Facilities--Physical Setting:

- a. Manage the lower one and one-half miles of Rattlesnake, Mee, and Knowles Canyons along Ruby Canyon primarily for river-related day hiking and the remainder of the WSA for backpacking.
- b. Manage under BLM's Interim Management Policy for lands under wilderness review until congressional action is taken, either formally designating the area as wilderness or releasing the land from wilderness review.
- c. Construct and designate a parking area and trailhead at the intersection of the Black Point Road and Mee Canyon Trail.
- d. The road west of Mee Canyon trailhead will be gated to reduce trespass onto privately-owned lands and control vehicles in the wilderness study area.
- e. Maintain hiking trails from trailheads along the BS Road on the south to the Jones Canyon Overlook and into (but not through) Knowles Canyon.
- f. To enable visitors to get into the canyon bottoms, help them avoid private property trespass, and to minimize off-trail resource impacts, do some minimal trail construction and mark the following trails with cairns:

From Mee Canyon Trailhead to access Mee Canyon

In Rattlesnake Canyon from the river to the arches

- g. Mark major trails with cairns, as needed to delineate routes, and maintain signs, appropriate to the targeted physical setting and as provided for in the Wilderness Act to provide for user safety, trail identification, and protection of the land.

- h. Allow for natural recovery of all other double-track and single-track trails except the Colorado Ridge Road, the Mee Canyon Trail, and the Knowles Canyon Bench Road (see under Human Use and Occupancy below).
- i. Provide interpretive kiosks at the Mee, Knowles, and Jones Canyons Trailheads.
- j. Prohibit overnight camping on the bench below and the mesa top above the arches.

Human Use and Occupancy--Social Setting:

- a. Gate the Colorado Ridge Road at its intersection with the Arches Road, the Mee Canyon Trail (at the trailhead), and the Knowles Canyon Bench Road (at its intersection with the Boundary Road) to all motorized use except for authorized motorized use by grazing permittees.
- b. Manage the zone for an optimum group size not to exceed six to 10 people to promote realization of targeted benefits (excluding the lower one and one-half miles of Knowles, Mee, and Rattlesnake Canyons which are under the Ruby Canyon social management prescription) to promote achievement of targeted benefits.
- c. Encourage "Leave No Trace" hiking and camping within the area. The Leave No Trace program will be implemented throughout the area.

Service Delivery System--Administrative Setting:

- a. Issue an RFP as needed to identify commercial entrepreneurs to provide the specific kinds of services needed for wilderness backpacking visitors to realize targeted benefits.

How the Tourism Industry Can Help:

- a. After formal wilderness designation, work with the Grand Junction VCB and area tourism businesses to ensure that all future tourism materials explicitly describe the targeted settings and activity and benefit opportunities targeted for this zone.
- b. Work with the Grand Junction VCB and area tourism businesses to include user ethics messages in their tourism materials that encourage their clients to: 1. be adequately equipped for the desert environment

and have adequate understanding of how human actions impact the WSA, and 2. promote a responsible use ethic that respects other visitors' experiences, and the rights of adjacent landowners and grazing permittees.

How Interest and Volunteer Groups Can Help:

- a. Continue to volunteer time and expertise to conduct volunteer patrols to help maintain the character of the Black Ridge West wilderness experience.

2. ARCHAEOLOGIC-HISTORIC-PALEONTOLOGIC

Management Objectives:

Manage the southern zone to provide for:

- a. Protection of archaeologically and historically sensitive sites or localities with special attention to areas of PNF and planned prescribed burns in conformance with the fire management plan. Reseed case by case.
- b. Protection of all archaeologically, historically, and paleontologically sensitive sites and localities in areas still open to locatable mineral entry.
- c. The collection of scientifically-important archaeological and/or historical objects or fossils (mainly dinosaur bones) by individuals or organizations with proper permits.
- d. The collection of fossil wood and common invertebrates by private individuals in reasonable quantities, but done so as not to totally deplete the resource in any one area.
- e. Archaeological, historical, and paleontological resource surveys or inventories of the area, both within and outside the WSA. Ensure that sites and localities are located on standard topographic maps with appropriate site or locality forms and other documentation.
- f. Promote use of the GJRA "Fossil Education Kit" and the archaeological education program developed by Anasazi Heritage Center, within and by local community groups.

Management Prescriptions:

Deliver benefits by adhering to the following management prescriptions:

- a. Providing funding/support for brochures and interpretive materials.
- b. Continued networking between the BLM and the various archaeological, historical, paleontological and wilderness interests.
- c. Finishing and later updating the GJRA archaeological and paleontological overviews, including the RCBR area.
- d. Encourage archaeological, historical, and paleontological resources surveys or inventories in this area, both within and outside the WSA. Ensure they are locating sites and localities on standard topographic maps and filling out site and/or locality forms, and other documentation.

Management Actions:

- a. Continue working under a CMA with the MWC and DIS, in assembling a paleontological overview of the GJRA, which includes the RCBR area.
- b. Continue networking with paleontological, archaeological, and wilderness interests.
- c. Work with community - brochures, etc.:
 - Through partnership feedback
 - Compliance checks
 - Through BLM paleontological resources program
 - BLM Fossil Education Kit use
 - Sign-in registers at Dinosaur Hill, Rabbit Valley
 - Trail Through Time, etc.
 - Questionnaires
- d. Continue to work in the CMA with the MWC and DIS for proper management of paleontological resources in this area, and to involve other partners as needed.
- e. Work with partnerships to educate the public about appropriate uses of archaeological, historical, and paleontological resources. This may involve the use of brochures, exhibits, programs, etc.
- f. Encourage archaeologists, historians, and paleontologists with existing or potential research or educational interests in the area by working closely with them and encouraging them to do permitted field work and in keeping this process as simple as possible.

- g. Finish archaeological and paleontological overviews of GJRA, which will assemble known locality data.

3. **VEGETATION**

Management Objectives:

Manage the southern zone to provide for the following desired outcomes:

- a. Diverse vegetative communities to enhance ecological processes and provide a mosaic of habitats for wildlife and livestock.
- b. Native plant communities.
- c. Livestock forage at or above present levels (AUMs) in each grazing allotment.
- d. Habitat that favors deer and not elk. A browse component is desired for deer habitat especially in critical deer range along the Utah border (SWA 60).
- e. Bighorn sheep habitat particularly pinyon-juniper densities appropriate for migration routes.
- f. Viable populations of special status plant species.
- g. A natural environment for public land users.

Management Prescriptions:

Deliver the desired outcomes by:

- a. Attaining the desired plant community for the Colorado River as described in Appendix E.
- b. Allow fire, natural or human ignited, to function as a natural process as much as possible.

Management Actions:

- a. Utilize grazing strategies that plan for dormant season use and/or spring grazing use which provides periodic rest during critical growth periods.

- b. Continue livestock agreements, eliminating livestock use in certain canyon bottoms and sheep use in desert bighorn ranges.
- c. Utilize management activities that favor maintaining or creating deer habitat and discourages elk use of the area.
- d. Reseed qualifying areas following fire to promote the desired plant community, mainly diversity and reduce the potential for invasion of cheatgrass or other undesirable vegetation. Rehabilitation would be on a case by case basis depending on fire size, suitability of soils and slopes, and availability of a natural seed source etc. Seed mixtures would only include native species and should include shrubs and forbs.
- e. Fire management activities should consider the following:
 - Allowing fire to play as natural role as possible by following the guidelines in the Prescribed Natural Fire Plan.
 - Encourage diversity and consider the shrub component for deer habitat.
 - Utilizing fire to open up areas within the pinyon-juniper community type for desert bighorn sheep movement, especially in the west portion of the unit.
 - Limiting total acres burned to 15 to 20 percent of Black Ridge unit in a given year. These percentages are guidelines only and should be evaluated each year.
 - Utilizing prescribed burns to maintain or achieve the desired plant community.
 - An annual meeting with the DPC Team and other interested parties to evaluate the role of fire in meeting resource objectives including the desired plant community.
- f. Initiate eradication measures if goldenrod proves to be an alien invader.
- g. Utilize herbicides, pesticides and biological agents on a small scale basis for the control of weeds and/or exotic species.
- h. Develop partnerships with livestock operators and other users to encourage management that promotes the DPC or other land health goals.
- i. Develop tools for educating the public on the importance of ecological processes and the relationship to the diverse uses.

4. **SOIL, WATER AND AIR**

Management Objectives:

Manage the southern zone to provide for:

- a. Functioning watersheds.
- b. Protection and/or enhancement of water quality.
- c. Reduction in soil erosion.
- d. Acceptable air quality.

Management Prescriptions:

Deliver the benefits by:

- a. Managing for desired plant community objectives.
- b. Maintaining or improve vegetative cover.
- c. Maintaining minimum air quality standards.

Management Actions:

- a. Utilize wildlife and livestock grazing strategies that enhance vegetative cover.
- b. Encourage management practices that reduce the effects of surface disturbance such as rehabilitation of disturbed areas, reseeding following fire, controlling the size of fires and implementation of Best Management Practices.
- c. Maintain minimum air quality standards.

5. **WILDLIFE AND T&E SPECIES**

Management Objectives:

Manage the southern zone to provide for:

- a. Enjoyment of wildlife part of every visitors experience.

- b. At least five 3/4 curl or greater sized desert bighorn rams observable in population per year.
- c. At least four hundred mule deer hunter-days per year.
- d. At least 150 elk hunter-days per year.
- e. Security for native wildlife and rare plant populations.
- f. Wildlife habitat approximating pristine conditions.
- g. Confidence that no species listed for Endangered Species Act protection is adversely affected by human actions.
- h. A population of desert bighorn sheep of between 125 and 535 animals with a lamb/ewe ratio of at least 25 percent in late summer or early fall (refer to Appendix A - Desert Bighorn Plan).

Management Prescriptions:

Deliver the benefits by adhering to the following management prescriptions:

- a. Acclaimed success in rapid education of visitors about species abundances, roles in the community and how to detect their presence.
- b. Developing educational and promotional projects avoid scare language in reference to wildlife-related hazards and inform about timing, severity, and avoidance tips regarding outdoor pests and potentially hazardous species, and also explain the known environmental roles of these species (gnats, rattlesnakes).
- c. Increasing visitor ability to identify the rare and the often seen species in the area.
- d. Increasing visitor recognition of society's role in maintaining biodiversity. Wildlife and rare plant information is presented in the ecoregional context, i.e., the Colorado Plateau, Intermountain Region.
- e. Maintaining extensive and accessible inventory and monitoring data.
- f. Provide reliable watering sites near bighorn sheep escape cover.
- g. Managing for a post hunting season buck/doe ratio of 25 percent in GMU 40.

- h. Managing for a post hunting season bull/cow ratio of 20 percent in GMU 40.
- i. Assuring that disturbances to bighorn sheep, and rare plants and animals is within the limits of toleration by the species.

Management Actions:

- a. Add wildlife educational messages to trailheads and brochures.
- b. Produce 30-second spots to be aired on local TV stations in April and May with messages to the potential visitor.
- c. Produce for public use a checklist of wildlife known to be in the Black Ridge WSA with revisions as needed.
- d. Management action dealing with the management of desert bighorn sheep is addressed in the revised Colorado Desert Bighorn Sheep Management Plan, Appendix A.
- e. To protect desert bighorn sheep, discourage hiking in Devils Canyon during the spring lambing season (April 1 though June 1).
- f. Support the CDOW in encouraging a high harvest rate of deer, elk, and, if research indicates it is advisable, mountain lions in this area for a reduced competition, disease transmission and predation on the desert bighorn sheep population.
- g. Helicopter access to peregrine eyrie sites and desert bighorn sheep handling sites will be allowed until the WSA is designated as wilderness.
- h. All cliffs that are occupied by peregrine falcon eyries will be closed to trail use on the tops and rock climbing from March 15 to July 15 and over the same period, all cliffs that have ever been occupied by peregrine falcons eyries will be closed to rock climbing. Choice of these cliffs for trails and rock climbing at any time of the year will be discouraged.

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